



Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
Innovation. Collaboration. Practical Solutions.

Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission

André Baugh, Chair

Michelle Rudd, Vice Chair

Howard Shapiro, Vice Chair

Karen Gray

Gary Oxman

Don Hanson

Katherine Schultz

Mike Houck

Chris Smith

Lai-Lani Ovalles

Irma Valdez

February 13, 2013

Portland City Council
Portland City Hall
1211 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mayor Hales and City Council Members:

On January 22, 2013 the Planning and Sustainability Commission voted unanimously to forward the *Proposed Historic Resources Code Improvement Project Zoning Code Amendments* to City Council for approval.

At the hearing, the Commission heard passionate testimony from a broad spectrum of interests. While sympathetic to many of the concerns raised, the Commission understands that this project could not address all concerns and shortcomings associated with historic resource protection. While there are many components of the process beyond the scope of this project, we view this package of amendments as a common sense approach to providing much-needed relief to homeowners wishing to make minor home improvements in the City's historic and conservation districts.

In addition to the Zoning Code amendments, the Commission adds three specific requests to City Council in response to testimony:

1. Fund prompt Bureau of Development Services development of a user-friendly handout, also made available on the web, explaining how historic resources are regulated. This is in response to repeated concerns that the regulations are too complex for the general public to understand.
2. Clearly state when any potential fee reductions will be determined and, if identified, implemented. This was a common theme for all testifiers.
3. Direct the bureaus of Development Services and Planning and Sustainability to return to the Planning and Sustainability Commission after one year to evaluate the success of code amendments in achieving the project goals.

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations.

Sincerely,

André Baugh
Chair
Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission



City of Portland, Oregon | Bureau of Planning and Sustainability | www.portlandoregon.gov/bps
1900 SW 4th Avenue, Suite 7100, Portland, OR 97201 | phone: 503-823-7700 | fax: 503-823-7800 | tty: 503-823-6868

Printed on 100% post-consumer waste recycled paper.